

FILE ONLYNICARAGUA - FUNDS
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The Senate gave final passage Thursday to a bill that broadens U.S. support for Nicaraguan rebels _ allowing unarmed aircraft, trucks and secure radios _ although still banning U.S. military training, advice and lethal supplies.

The 1986 intelligence authorization bill cleared the Senate on voice vote without debate, after winning House approval Tuesday by 387-21. The compromise, which was hammered out by congressional negotiators, now goes to President Reagan for his signature.

Although the bill provides undisclosed amounts for worldwide U.S. intelligence activities, the most controversial part remained Reagan's support for rebels _ known as Contras _ fighting to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist government.

The bill states that the \$27 million in "humanitarian" non-lethal aid, approved last summer, can be spent to buy the rebels "transportation equipment ... so long as no modifications are made ... to inflict serious bodily harm or death."

Congressional sources, refusing to be identified, said that section clears the way for the administration to send unarmed planes, helicopters, ambulances and trucks to the rebels and would seem to permit the vehicles to be used later to transport military equipment or troops.

The bill also provides sophisticated radios for the rebels so they can transmit CIA -supplied intelligence to their base camps without it being intercepted by government forces. In addition, the CIA could train the rebels on using the radios.

But the bill bars U.S. officials from "activities ... that amount to participation in the planning or execution of military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua ... or to participation in logistics activities integral to such operations."

In Managua, the Foreign Ministry denounced the Senate action in a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz.

"The discussion of new funds or of new ways to use or deliver them forms a dangerous picture that shows once more the inexorable U.S. decision to continue preparing the conditions for letting loose direct military intervention against our country," said the letter signed by acting Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera.

The Foreign Ministry said the congressional action would harm the attempts by the Contadora group, whose members are Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama, to negotiate a regional Central American peace treaty.

"Mr. Secretary, in expressing our most formal and energetic protest against the persistent policy by the U.S. administration of using new funds for the 'mercenary' forces, we sent an urgent call to the U.S. government to desist from this policy of force, and to begin a sincere dialogue as proposed by President Daniel Ortega that would lead to normalization of relations between our two countries," the letter said.

Reagan is expected to propose a resumption of direct, military aid to the rebels early next year. The rebels were covertly backed by the CIA from 1981 to 1984 when Congress _ angered by CIA mining of Nicaragua's harbors _ cut off all aid. Reagan won approval of non-lethal aid last summer.